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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, and with reference to the letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/563), I have the honour to attach herewith a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 29 July 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information.

The crisis in Syria has lasted for four and a half years. During that time, Turkey has continually plotted against Syria by collaborating with terrorists, who have come through Turkish territory from more than one hundred States to join Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, Ahrar al-Sham and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. The Syrian Government has written numerous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council documenting the Turkish plot against Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects the Turkish regime's attempt to portray itself as a victim acting in self-defence. Everybody knows that the Turkish regime has provided all forms of support to the terrorist groups. In so doing, it has flagrantly violated the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). For instance, as everyone is well aware, ISIL has been stealing petrol, wheat, cotton and antiquities in Syria and selling them in Turkey, with the knowledge of the Turkish regime, in return for weapons, ammunition and logistical services for its members on Turkish territory. Machinery from hundreds of factories in northern Syria has been dismantled, stolen and transported to Turkey. Indeed, Turkey has continued to train and arm terrorists from the Nusrah Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. It has provided fire cover with rifles and rocket launchers while the groups entered Idlib governorate acting under the name Army of Conquest.

The Turkish Government's support for terrorism makes it directly responsible for the shedding of Syrian blood and the suffering of millions of Syrians at home and abroad.

The letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/563) refers to Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). It ignores Security Council 2199 (2015). This raises the question of whether Turkey is committed in word and deed to implementing those resolutions, which were adopted under Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations. If Turkey and neighbouring States were committed to implementing the resolutions, 70 per cent of the factors underlying the crisis in Syria would be resolved. Article 51 of the Charter entitles the Syrian Arab Republic to defend its people and land against terrorists who are coming over its borders with the support of the Turkish regime and other regional States. However, the Turkish regime has no right to invoke Article 51, because it is itself the party exporting the terrorism to which it refers.

Syria and its armed forces are fighting against terrorism, as represented by over 70 extremist organizations that are funded, armed and trained by well-known regional States and international parties, foremost among which is Turkey. In their statements, United States military officials make no secret of the fact that numerous

regional States play host to training camps, which supposedly belong to the moderate opposition. Contrary to the claims set out in the Turkish letter, our armed forces are responding to the terrorist organizations ISIL and the Nusrah Front in many parts of Syria, while press correspondents have published pictures of Turkish soldiers exchanging greetings with ISIL members on the border between the two countries.

For years, Syria has repeated that terrorism has no nation, religion or borders. Syria has warned the supporters of terrorism that it would turn against them. Unfortunately, we have recently seen terrorism start to turn against its supporters. If Turkey now feels, four and a half years into the crisis in Syria, that it has a duty to confront terrorism, one might well say "Better late than never". But does Turkey genuinely intend to enforce the relevant Security Council resolutions by fighting ISIL, the Nusrah Front and the other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida? Or is it merely making that claim in order to strike the Kurds in Syria and Iraq or, perhaps, for domestic reasons?

The Syrian Arab Republic is determined to continue combating terrorism and fulfilling its patriotic duty to defend and protect the Syrian people. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to assume their responsibility by prevailing on States to implement the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015), and to take deterrent action against State sponsors of the terrorist groups ISIL, the Nusrah Front and other organizations associated with Al-Qaida. Syria reiterates that the definitive eradication of terrorism requires a collective effort, one that is binding at the regional and international levels and grounded in constructive cooperation and respect for the sovereignty of States and the interests of their peoples.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative